



Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona
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PRESS RELEASE

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FORMER HILTON HOTEL AUDITOR SENTENCED FOR MAIL AND WIRE FRAUD

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- **TIMOTHY DALE SPEAKMAN**, a former auditor for Hilton Hotels and a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, was sentenced today to 12 months imprisonment and 36 months of supervised release, for committing Mail and Wire Fraud. He was also ordered to pay Hilton Hotels \$96,000 in restitution, for the losses they incurred as a result of the fraud.

SPEAKMAN was employed as an auditor by Hilton Hotels from 1991 through March 24, 1998, the date of his termination. The defendant lived in Texas until he moved to Phoenix, Arizona, in July 1996, where he continued to perform audits for Hilton Hotels throughout the United States. In July 1992, **SPEAKMAN** opened a VISA credit card account with the defendant listed as the primary cardholder and his father as an additional cardholder, on the same account. The defendant admitted that from February 1995, through March 1998, through his employment at Hilton, he fraudulently caused Hilton to make erroneous payments to his personal credit card, with the false impression that it was refunding charges to its customers. The defendant subsequently used the credit balances on his VISA to purchase goods and services for his own benefit.

The investigation that led to the successful prosecution in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution was handled by Peter S. Sexton, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

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